

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A rod connector, comprising:

a connector main body swingably attached to a shank, said connector main body comprising a recess configured to engage part of a spherical end portion of the shank, part of said spherical end portion extending outside of said recess in a direction towards the shank;

a rod supporting portion provided in the connector main body and configured for supporting a rod; and

a pressure fixing device for pressure fixing the rod to the rod supporting portion of the connector main body, wherein the rod supporting portion comprises convex portions at both ends of the rod supporting portion, each convex portion comprising a sharp distal end configured to be embedded into the rod.

4. (Currently Amended) A rod connector, comprising:

a connector main body swingably attached to a shank, said connector main body comprising a recess configured to engage part of a spherical end portion of the shank, part of said spherical end portion extending outside of said recess in a direction towards the shank;

a rod supporting portion provided in the connector main body and configured for supporting a rod; and

a pressure fixing device for pressure fixing the rod to the rod supporting portion of the connector main body,

wherein a supporting surface of the rod supporting portion comprises a sandblasted rough surface such that frictional resistance between the rod supporting portion and the rod is increased when the rod supporting portion supports the rod.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A rod connector, comprising:

a connector main body swingably attached to a shank, said connector main body comprising a recess configured to engage part of a spherical end portion of the shank, part of said spherical end portion extending outside of said recess in a direction towards the shank;

a rod supporting portion provided in the connector main body and configured for supporting a rod; and

a pressure fixing device for pressure fixing the rod to the rod supporting portion of the connector main body,

wherein a rear end of the shank comprises a flange portion that is configured to prevent removal of the shank from an engaging member, and

wherein the flange portion is arranged coaxially with the shank.

7-10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A rod connector comprising:

a connector main body swingably attached to a shank, said connector main body comprising a recess configured to engage part of a spherical end portion of the shank, part of said spherical end portion extending outside of said recess in a direction towards the shank;

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a rod supporting portion provided in the connector main body and configured for supporting a rod; and

a pressure fixing device for pressure fixing the rod to the rod supporting portion of the connector main body;

wherein a rear end of the shank comprises a flange portion that is configured to prevent removal of the shank from an engaging member to be inserted in a bone.